

Why Those Germans Fled Eastward

June 17—A Fatal Date

By JOSEPH CLARK

AS ONE top West German follows another to East Germany it is timely to recall the event which touched off the current crisis of State Department policy in Germany.

Otto John, head of the Bonn Government's Security Establishment took off for the east after some long chats with J. Edgar Hoover and Allen Dulles, topped off by conversations with the chiefs of British intelligence.

Next to seek asylum in East Germany was Gerhard Prather, a leading agent of the U.S. sponsored West German intelligence service headed by former German General Reinhold Gehlen.

Then came Karl F. Schmidt, Wittmack of the Bonn Parliament's European Army Committee, shortly after that committee had dismissed ways and means of building the Wehrmacht in view of the death of EDC.

Even a champion track man came running to the east, Erich Kuznyki, German 10,000 meter record holder.

★ WHY THIS NEW kind of "drang nach Osten" (drive to the east) in German politics? As we went on to say, the key is the events of June 17, 1953—date of the Berlin "uprising" that was hailed so loudly and enthusiastically in Washington. Rumoring through papers of that time we see a report from Washington in the New York Times (June 20, 1953) that "officials were rubbing their hands in glee" over the June 17 events.

A Times editorial went so far as to suggest (June 18, 1953) that those riots would "rank high in the history of Germany and of European civilization." And all the very authoritative pundits were repeating a pungent phrase about "cracks in the Kremlin wall."

Actually it was those very June

17 events which caused many West Germans, even in conservative circles, to question the policy which was reviving nazism in western Germany. The June 17 events were a desperate, if completely ineffectual attempt, by the dregs of the nazi remains to disrupt and sabotage the east German regime.

The German Democratic Republic is dedicated to the elimination of nazism and had gone about the job at the roots. Of course there were problems and difficulties in east Germany which offered some soil for the nazi agents to operate in. And what is not generally recognized is that the nazi struck on June 17 because the east Germans were making a very important turn toward greater liberalization of their regime and toward a much greater emphasis on producing consumer goods and housing.

★ THE CHORLING over the June 17 riots turned out to be shortlived because any policy which is based on a revival of the nazi is doomed in Europe today. This is one important reason for the fiasco suffered by the EDC. The French knew it was nazi who were involved in the June 17 "uprising." They knew also that the reborn Wehrmacht was being nurtured by former nazi generals.

And behind the recent defection of Otto John to the German Democratic Republic was the same fear of a revival of nazism. It involved the ascendancy of Gen. Gehlen's intelligence outfit at the expense of the regular Bonn regime security forces headed by Otto John. A good idea of Gehlen's background was given in a dispatch (Aug. 24) to the Scripps Howard newspapers:

"A behind-the-scenes battle is raging in Bonn over the mysterious figure of ex-Nazi Lt. Gen. Reinhard Gehlen . . . Total victory for the former chief of Hitler's Soviet-front intelligence service would make him a combination of J.

Edgar Hoover and Allen W. Dulles. He now bosses a U.S.-financed international spy network, considered one of the ablest set-ups in the West . . . His supporters emphasize only a firm hand can restore order to the nation's shattered intelligence setup—and he's the only West German engaged in almost continuous espionage activity against Russia since 1942." (New York World Telegram.)

★ OF COURSE THE FRENCH couldn't be convinced that only Russia was the target of this Nazi-U.S.-financed espionage outfit. They know the bitter facts of all too recent history that nazi who talk about marching east have an uncomfortable habit of marching west, first.

Not only the French but all Europeans know that it is the west which is menaced by the threatened revival of the Wehrmacht. They read with the utmost concern a dispatch from Washington which Milton Friedman of Jewish Telegraphic Agency wrote in July:

"Nazi war criminals may be back in uniform by the end of 1954 as a by-product of the American plan for the remilitarization of West Germany."

"The Defense Department has solicited advice from Nazi Field Marshal Albert Kesselring who was convicted and imprisoned for slaughtering 400 innocent men and women near Rome. Kesselring is also given the Bonn Government military planning office his expert recommendations. He has been honored by the commander of the U.S. Air Force in Germany by an invitation to see the latest jet aircraft and other secret weapons. The Air Force was apparently deeply impressed by his cooperative attitude and the respect he pays to U.S. officers." (Jewish Examiner, July 16, 1954.)

This was exactly the sort of thing which produced the ignominious collapse of EDC at Brussels. This is behind the various flights



German dockers and their wives, armed with pitchforks, struck in Bremerhaven for a wage raise and against the requisition of German homes for U.S. occupation troops. Many were wounded when police attacked the strikers. In both west and east Germany the working people favor unification of their country and elimination of foreign occupation.

to the east. This is behind the recent resolution of the French Socialist Party opposing a German Army. This is behind the resolutions pouring in to the coming British Trades Union Congress meeting opposing German rearmament. This is just another reason why the Eisenhower-Dulles foreign policy goes from one fiasco to another.

★ THE PEOPLE IN Washington who saw strength and gains for their policy in the June 17 Berlin riots were short-sighted to say the least. Those who saw in June 17 a sign of inevitable war against the Soviet Union reckoned without the people of Europe who have vivid memories about the goose-step—and the ovens where human beings were burned.

Furthermore a policy which is based on reviving the nazi can generate no enthusiasm among the American people. Millions of us actually were in the field against the nazi.

And finally, not the least hopeful sign of the times is the reluctance of the West German themselves to march at the orders of a foreign power. Those Senators who talk about going it alone in rearming West Germany have still to reckon with the basic fact that even the conservative German business interests have no desire to serve anyone but themselves. That's why the Bonn regime itself is discussing increased trade with the Soviet Union and China.

Common sense dictates that Washington's plan to revive the nazi is doomed to failure.

When the Soviet Farmer Puts on a Show

By ARCHIE JOHNSTONE
MOSCOW

RE-EXAMINING an age-old problem of population-distribution in the light of certain post-war phenomena, one of the leading sociologists of Tin Pan Alley in 1919 expressed his concern as to how ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm.

A few years later, one of his fellow-scientists discussed and proclaimed the hitherto unsuspected fact that Time Marches On. Thus, although the sociologist's words kept ringing in my ears while I was visiting the Agricultural Exhibition here, this mysterious March of Time gave the words a new meter and a new meaning—merely by putting the breathing space after instead of before the word "down." I invite

you to try it and note the difference.

The answer to the 1954 version of the 1919 question is that you simply can't keep 'em down. Down on the Soviet farm they are all faithful followers of Ivan Michurin, the father of Soviet farming science, who stressed this quality of "unkeepdownability" in his motto, "Don't wait for favors from Nature—wrest them from her!" And the exposition itself is a display of the infinite variety of ways in which you can't keep 'em down.

Unfortunately, I had no sooner got the how-ya-gonna jingle out of my head than its place was taken by another, as pernicious as Mark Twain's "Punch, brother, punch with care, punch in the presence of the passanjar." From the name of Michurin on one of the stands it was a fatally easy mental step to Michigan, and that's why you wishigan that you were in Michigan, down on the farm.

★ I FIND—and I offer the suggestion to all fellow-sufferers from jingles—that the only cure is a homeopathic one to drive out one jingle with another. So, after a few false starts and ignoring the raised eyebrows around me, I began muttering that

That's why you're rich, you're in Clover with Michurin
Down on the farm
which reminds me that one Michurized tree in the exposition claims to have 50 different kinds of apples growing on it. I admitted to its keeper that the apples certainly looked different, but

about the taste? "That's the



67th today," he added mysteriously. "Only, the ones before you were all in short pants."

The same restriction applies to the rows of fruit-bearing trees on which you may feast your eyes along the 22 miles of highway and 18 miles of smaller roads in the grounds. But at the moment of writing there is no law against indulging as deeply as you please near the 33,000 rose-bushes and the endless flower-beds with their five million plants.

Before leaving the Michurinists for their own vegetative hybrid and other sinister devices, I must mention here that the Young Michurinists of Rostov exhibit a rooster (13 pounds on the hoof) and hen (9 pounds of a breed) which these early teenagers evolved them-

selves some years ago, beginning presumably with the bees and flowers. Many poultry kolkhozes in the Rostov area now concentrate on this breed, which, apart from the weight of flesh, outlays Leghorns (previously the best all-around bird for that region) by 60 eggs a year. Another new Rostov breed lays 310 big-size eggs a year, to the delight of the Sunday Observance Society, 39 Newington Butts, London, S. E. 115. Young Michurinists have also produced the first species of corn to ripen in the Moscow region, which is well to the north of the normal corn-belt.

★ THE PRESENT exposition is half as large again in area (520 acres) as its famous predecessor of 1939. But I doubt if that is an adequate index of the general advance. For instance, you get that 50 percent increase in the number of Machine and Tractor Stations (now 9000) indicated on the show's three-story map of the Soviet Union, but that takes no account of the doubling and trebling of the size of many individual MTS's since 1939.

All the buildings are permanent—and really beautiful specimens of different national architecture—because the exposition will remain open indefinitely. The total volume of the buildings is equal to the room-space of a town of 12,000 homes, each with rooms 4 by 4 by 3 yards. And the 25,000 tons of water thrown up per hour by the great fountain (one with 1,000 jets) equals the water supply of a town of 125,000 population. There are extensive trolley-bus

services within the grounds, but even inside the Mechanization Pavilion there is no passenger conveyor-belt or other mechanical device to reduce the endless miles the devout pilgrim has to walk. And the Mechanization Pavilion with its three miles of exhibits is only one of the 307 buildings to be visited. Each day at the exposition, it is calculated, a million miles are covered by "Bus No. 11," the Russian equivalent of Shanks' mare.

The show is, of course, a great attraction for Muscovites, so great that during these first few months a limit has had to be set to the number of tickets sold—a modest 100,000 a day, and all snatched up. But primarily it is a show of the farmers, by the farmers, for the

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